

CHARLIE CRIST
13TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA
www.crist.house.gov

215 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5961

696 1ST AVENUE NORTH, SUITE 203
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701
(727) 318-6770

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0913

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APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
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DEFENSE
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FINANCIAL SERVICES AND
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SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
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SPACE AND AERONAUTICS
ENVIRONMENT

The President
The White House

Dear Mr. President,

Recent news reports detail how the U.S. State Department overruled strong objections from the Centers for Disease Control in allowing 14 Americans who tested positive for the new coronavirus to board a commercial flight back to the United States. This incident suggests that precedent and chain of command were not followed in the appropriate manner, despite the gravity of the threat to the public's health.

Given that different federal agencies with different mandates and jurisdictions can come to divergent conclusions, and with time of the essence in this growing crisis, it is important we have an empowered expert to oversee interagency efforts and coordinate the federal response. To that end, I recommend creating the position of Coronavirus Czar, filled by a universally trusted expert, to oversee this effort and report directly to you. This was the successful structure employed by President Obama to combat the Ebola virus in 2014, and it merits re-deployment in this situation.

With outbreaks of the new coronavirus now occurring in Italy, Iran, South Korea, and Singapore, the American people deserve a strong, clear, and unified response to ensure this pandemic does not overwhelm our nation. I appreciate your consideration of this proposal to help safeguard the health of the American people.

Sincerely yours,



Charlie Crist
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN